

PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT



MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT - 2021

1. Introduction

Briefly discuss the roles and responsibilities of the planning commission and perhaps the zoning board of appeals. Great place to highlight any notable trainings or other accomplishments. This is a great opportunity to thank board members for their service.

2. Outline the purpose of this report

- It's called for in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act:
"A planning commission shall make an annual written report to the legislative body concerning its operations and the status of planning activities, including recommendations regarding actions by the legislative body related to planning and development."
- Increases information-sharing between staff, boards, commission and the governing body
- Allows for anticipation of upcoming issues and priorities, in order to prepare and budget, if necessary
- Opportunity to thank board and commission members for their time and good work

3. Membership

Planning commission member	Term expiration
Jere Fritsche, Chair	12/31/2022
Robert Byczek, Jr., Vice Chair	01/01/2024
Peter Djupe	01/01/2024
James Wester	01/01/2024
Mike Hoinowski	12/31/2024
Dennis Powell	12/21/2023
Vacant	

4. Meetings *(MPEA requires four meetings annually)*

1. The Iron River Planning Commission met 8 times. This meets the requirements of the MPEA.
2. One workshop with Downtown Development Authority and City Council.

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5. Master plan review

- Review goals and recommendations of the plan and indicate progress, include goals of the commission that may not be included in the master plan
- Include the action plan table from the plan and indicate progress, actions completed, and next year's priorities
- Identify any potential plan amendments to work on for the upcoming year that can be prepared and adopted then incorporated at a later date
- Use master plan update review table (from the "Master Plan Update Guide") to decide whether the plan needs to be amended

Beckett & Raeder completed new Master Plan draft in conjunction with Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority and City Council input

6. Zoning ordinance amendments

- Document the section numbers amended and indicate any work in progress
- Review rezoning requests; indicate location, request description, and status
- Identify any zoning ordinance updates to undertake in the upcoming year

Begin Zoning Ordinance rewrite

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7. Development reviews *(consult your project tracking mechanism to fill in this information)*

Project type	Location	Description	Status	Recommendation to legislative body	Date of action
Zoning Ordinance Updates	151.123	Fences, Walls & Screens	In Review		
Zoning Ordinance	Recreational Marihuana Use		In Review		
CIP			In Review		
Rezoning	9 W Franklin	Gov to AG/OS	In Review		

8. Variances *(Review actions taken by the Board of Zoning Appeals; request summary from BZA)*

Variance type	Location	Description	Status	Recommendation to legislative body	Date of action
Conditional Use	116 N 4 th Ave	Temporary Sign	Approved	N/A	Mar 11
Special Use	130 Washington	Marihuana Disp	Denied	N/A	May 13
Conditional LndUse	Riverton Rd	Dog Park		Council/Parks & Rec	June 10
Conditional LndUse	330 Washington	Building Addition		ZBA	July 15

9. Actions by legislative body *(Review actions taken by the legislative body related to planning and development)*

10. Zoning map *(Review with listed development and rezoning requests to analyze potential trends)*

Found error when map was completed near Division Street – Border of R1-B to Industrial needs to be corrected to include garages.

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11. Trainings attended (*consult your training tracking log to fill in this information*)

Topic /description	Date
Provided updated Planning Commission Handbook to Members	08/2021
Provide Planning & Zoning News Subscriptions to all Members	Monthly

Potential training topics in the upcoming year, based on goals and priorities

Topic /description
RRC – Best Practices 1 – 6
Planning

12. Joint meetings

City Council / DDA / PC 3/27/2021 Work Session for Corner Posts

13. Other notable items to consider including: